

## **7.0 COMMUNITY IMPACTS**

Standard 8 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that “Conservation and management measures shall, consistent with the conservation requirements of this Act (including the prevention of overfishing and rebuilding of overfished stocks), take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities in order to (A) provide for the sustained participation of such communities, and (B) to the extent practicable, minimize adverse economic impacts on such communities.” (16 U.S.C. 1851) The term fishing community is described in the statute as “...a community which is substantially dependent on or substantially engaged in the harvest or processing of fishery resources to meet social and economic needs, and includes fishing vessel owners, operators, and crew and United States fish processors that are based in such community.” (16 U.S.C. 1802)

This section analyzes the social impacts of the final actions on fishing communities. The BSAI and GOA groundfish FMPs (NPFMC, 1999a and 1999b) have additional information regarding socioeconomic characteristics of fishing communities that depend to some extent on the harvesting of Alaska groundfish. General information regarding the impacts of TAC specifications on communities can be found in section 4.4.4 of the SEIS (NMFS, 1998a) and section 4.8.7 of the draft PSEIS (NMFS 2001c).

Table 7-1 below summarizes the impacts of the alternatives on fishing communities. All results in this table compare “action” alternatives to the “no-action” alternative (Alternative 1).

**Table 7-1 Community impacts of the alternatives**

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
	<i>No action, baseline. Specifications based on previous years surveys</i>	<i>Specifications based on surveys two years before</i>	<i>Start the fishing year on July 1</i>	<i>Determine specifications for two years at a time.</i>
Involvement in decision process	No action, baseline	Better information supports public notice and comment. Better notice and comment opportunities on expected final specifications.	Better notice and comment opportunities on expected final specifications. No additional time for environmental or economic analysis of proposed specifications, (except for one additional month under Option 2.)	Better information supports public notice and comment. Better notice and comment opportunities on expected final specifications.
Change in fishing seasons	No action, baseline	None	Change of season to July 1 can cause problems for conduct of sablefish IFQ fishery. Option 1 would eliminate this impact.	None
Mean revenues	No action, baseline	Possible decline in mean revenues from groundfish fishery, although the result is tentative. If it occurs, there could be reduced incomes in fishing communities.	Possible overall decline in mean revenues from groundfish fishery, although the result is tentative. If it occurs, there could be reduced incomes in fishing communities. Any decline would be <b>smaller</b> than under Alt 2.	Possible overall decline in mean revenues from groundfish fishery, although the result is tentative. If it occurs, there could be reduced incomes in fishing communities. Any decline is likely to be <b>larger</b> than under Alt 2.
Year-to-year variability	No action, baseline	Possible increased year-to-year variability in revenues, although the result is tentative. If it occurs, it may create increased annual fluctuation in fishing community income.	Possible increased year-to-year variability in revenues, although the result is tentative. If it occurs, it may create increased annual fluctuation in fishing community income. Any increase would be smaller than under Alt 2.	Possible increased year-to-year variability in revenues, although the result is tentative. If it occurs, it may create increased annual fluctuation in fishing community income. Any increase would be larger than under Alt 2.
CDQ groups	No action, baseline	Income impacts could affect CDQ groups and communities.	There are sablefish CDQ allocations so CDQ groups might be affected by the change in fishing year.	Income impacts could affect CDQ groups and communities.